

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00823 190918Z
ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 EA-10 /070 W
-----075935 191018Z /16

P R 190841Z APR 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6028
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 928
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0823

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, IZ, UR
SUBJECT: ALLEGED SOVIET BUGGING OF IRAQI PRESIDENTIAL
PALACE

REF: STATE 97934

1. AL-HAWADITH IS GIVING A NEW EXPLANATION FOR AN OLD
STORY.

2. IT IS TRUE THAT IRAQIS CUT OFF SOVIET EMBASSY'S
WATER AND ELECTRICITY ABOUT A MONTH AGO. REGIME HAS
PURSUED SAME TACTICS WITH CHINESE EMBASSY, BEGINNING
LAST SUMMER, IN EFFORTS TO FORCE BOTH MISSIONS TO MOVE
THEIR CHANCERIES OUT OF SECURE ZONE WHICH INCLUDES
PALACE, FOREIGN MINISTRY (FORMER U.S. EMBASSY COMPLEX),
INTELLIGENCE HEADQUARTERS, BAATH PARTY NATIONAL COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, AND RESIDENCES OF MANY HIGH-LEVEL PARTY
AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

3. SOVIET EMBOFF TOLD ME RECENTLY THAT HIS MISSION HAD
LOCATED A BUILDING TO REPLACE CHANCERY BUT WAS
DICKERING WITH LANDLORD. CHINESE HAVE BEGUN MOVING
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TO NEW CHANCERY.

4. IT HAS BEEN UNDERSTOOD THAT ONE REASON IRAQIS
WANTED FOREIGN DIPLOMATS OUT OF SECURE AREA WAS
TO REDUCE POSSIBILITY THEY COULD MONITOR COMINGS
AND GOINGS OF HIGH OFFICIALS. ALLEGED BUGGING IS
A NEW STORY WHICH WE WILL CHECK OUT.

5. DEFER TO BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS ON BONA FIDES OF
AL-HAWADITH AND ITS POSSIBLE USE BY SYRIANS.
MACK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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